

## Message Text

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44

ACTION PPT-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-10 ADP-00 SCA-01 VO-03

CPR-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-15

PRS-01 INSE-00 FBIE-00 L-03 SS-15 NSC-10 /122 W

----- 084059

R 141500Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8437

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY VALLETA

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USINT ALGIERS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BRUSSELS 4673

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:CPAS, LY

SUBJECT: ARABIC IN PASSPORTS

REF: STATE 159095

1. EMBOFF MET WITH DECAT, FONOFF OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF LIBYAN

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PASSPORT PROBLEM, AUGUST 13 FOR LOW-KEY DISCUSSION OF QUESTIONS

RAISED REFTEL. DECAT PROVIDED EXAMPLE OF GOB'S ARABIC STAMP, WHICH BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT.

2. STAMP COMES IN TWO FORMS: FRENCH-ARABIC OR DUTCH-ARABIC, ACCORDING TO LANGUAGE OF PASSPORT HOLDER. BELGIAN FONOFF PLACES STAMP ON FIRST UNUSED RIGHT-HAND PAGE OF PASSPORT BUT DOES NOT FILL IN BLANKS. OFFICIAL SEAL AND SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED OFFICER THEN AFFIXED TO BOTTOM OF PAGE. FONOFF LEAVES TO LIBYANS RESPONSIBILITY OF FILLING IN BLANK STAMP, ALTHOUGH DECAT SAID THAT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT LIBYAN EMBASSY REQUIRES BELGIAN APPLICANT TO OBTAIN OWN TRANSLATION.

3. FONOFF AUTHORIZES STAMP TO BE ENTERED IN PASSPORTS OF ONLY THOSE BELGIANS WHOSE TRAVEL TO LIBYA IS CONSIDERED TO BE IN INTEREST OF BELTIUM OR WHO SEEK ENTRY ON HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS. DECAT SAID THAT IN EFFECT THIS ELIMINATES ONLY TOURISTS. BELGIAN EMBASSY TRIPOLI IS ONLY OTHER OFFICE AUTHORIZED TO AFFIX STAMP IN PASSPORT, TO FACILITATE RETURN TO LIBYA OF BELGIANS WHO RESIDENT THERE AND WISH TO EXIT.

4. DECAT EXTIMATED THAT SOME 50 BELGIANS HAD TRAVELED TO LIBYA UNDER PROCEDURE OUTLINED ABOVE. HE KNEW OF NO DIFFICULTY ENCOUNTERED BY ANY OF THEM.

5. DECAT NOTED BELGIAN EMBASSY REPORT THAT LIBYANS HAD ADVISED THAT STAMP IS REGARDED ONLY AS TEMPORARY MEASURE AND MUST EVENTUALLY GIVE WAY TO ARABIC PRINTED IN PASSPORTS. HE SAID THAT IF LIBYANS INSISTED ON THAT POINT GOB WOULD TAKE NO ACTION WITHOUT CONSULTING NATO PARTNERS. HE SPECULATED, WITH REQUEST THAT HIS REMARK NOT GO BEYOND USG, THAT GOB WOULD BE WILLING TO ADAPT ITSELF TO LIBYAN DEMAND BY PRINTING LIMITED NUMBER OF PASSPORTS WHICH WOULD INCLUDE ARABIC ALONG WITH BELGIUM'S OFFICIAL LANGUAGES. SUCH PASSPORTS WOULD BE ISSUED ONLY TO BELGIANS GOING TO LIBYA, WOULD BE VALID FOR LIMITED TIME ONLY, AND WOULD SUPPLEMENT TRAVELER'S REGULAR PASSPORT. CROWLEY

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## Message Attributes

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